

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to meaningful local media which will only become worse if media conglomerates are allowed. This is not only a disservice but a direct threat to democracy itself.

Sinclair and other licensees use the public airwaves free of charge, and I am both aware and willing to fight for the obligation they have, by law and the moral code implied by democracy, to serve the public interest.

Alas, when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what an entrenched employee thinks is good for the bottom line of the company, and less of what we need for our democracy. (By the way, the viewing public actually does want real news, and ratings for those few stations that have respectable news programming are proof of this).

Instead of something formulated far away, it's more important that we see real reporters, not talking heads, reporting about real people in our own communities and 100% more substantive news about issues that matter, instead of all the unneeded feel-good spots, and scare-tactic crime clips, and non-news sports coverage.

Sinclair's actions are an alarming example of why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them, but there are many more modest yet malignant examples. At the very least, Sinclair shows why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.